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Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 TEHRAN 03718 300652 Z

15
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 /026 W
---------- 073343
R 300500 Z MAY 73
FM AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2468
INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

S E C R E T TEHRAN 3718

EXDIS

DEPT PASS BAGHDAD

E. O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: TFOR, IR, IZ
SUBJECT: IRAN- IRAQ RELATIONS

REF: TEHRAN 3646 AND PREVIOUS

1. DURING MEETING WITH DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER MIRFENDERESKI ON OTHER MATTERS MAY 29, DCM ASKED MIRFENDERESKI WHETHER THERE WAS ANY TRUTH TO RUMORS CIRCULATING IN TEHRAN REGARDING RENEWED DISCUSSIONS TO IMPROVE RELATIONS BETWEEN IRAN AND IRAQ (REFTEL). CHOOSING HIS WORDS CAREFULLY, MIRFENDERESKI SAID THESE RUMORS WERE FALSE AND THAT THERE HAD BEEN NO OFFICIAL CONTACT OR DISCUSSIONS BETWEEN IRAQ AND IRAN SINCE GENEVA MEETING.

2. MIRFENDERESKI WENT ON TO SAY THAT EVER SINCE 1969 CONFRONTATION RUMORS HAVE CIRCULATED REGARDING AGREE-MENTS TO CEASE PROPOAGANDA AGAINST OTHER COUNTRY, TO WITHDRAW TROOPS FROM BORDER, ETC. BUT NOTHING OF THIS SORT IS UNDER ACTIVE CONSIDERATION AT THIS TIME. AT GENEVA FOREIGN MINISTER KHALATBARI HAD PUT TO IRAQI FOREIGN MINISTER SIX- POINT PROGRAM FOR DETENTE (TEHRAN 2990) AND AS FAR AS GOI WAS CONCERNED BALL WAS NOW IN IRAQI COURT. MIRFENDERESKI ADDED THAT IRAN WAS ALWAYS
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READY TO TALK WITH IRAQ AND ALSO HAD LOTS OF PATIENCE.

3. COMMENT: WHILE LEBANESE AMBASSADOR WHO GAVE US REPORT OF RENEWED EFFORTS TO IMPROVE RELATIONS BETWEEN IRAN AND IRAQ MAY HAVE BEEN TAKEN IN BY UNFOUNDED RUMORS, WE DO NOT FULLY ACCEPT MIRFENDERESKI' S DENIAL. HE MAY NOT HAVE FELT FREE TO LEVEL WITH US AT THIS TIME. ALTERNATIVELY HE MAY NOT BE PRIVY TO NEGOTIATIONS OUT OF FOREIGN MINISTRY CHANNELS WHICH SHAH OCCASIONALLY CONDUCTS. WE WILL KEEP PROBING DISCREETLY AND CONTINUE TO ENCOURAGE GOI TO BE FORTHCOMING IN ANY DEALINGS WITH IRAQIS.
HELMS

NOTE BY OC/ T: NOT PASSED BAGHDAD.

SECRET
NMAFVVZCZ

*** Current Handling Restrictions *** EXDIS
*** Current Classification *** SECRET

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